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New Jersey Pinelands Commission Extends Schedule of Free Webinars Through March

(Updated 2/26/2021)

The New Jersey Pinelands Commission has expanded its schedule of free, educational webinars through March.

The Commission has hosted 33 webinar presentations on its YouTube Channel since 2020. The newly added lineup for March includes presentations on a landscape level resource used for fire management and habitat assessments in the Pinelands, A Tale of Two Pine Barrens (comparing the Long Island Pine Barrens with the NJ Pine Barrens), the ecology and evolutionary physiology of Eastern fence lizards in association with chigger mites, and ecological forestry.

All of the webinars will be livestreamed on the Commission's <u>YouTube channel</u>. The Commission will send out weekly notices with direct links to the presentations, which will also be recorded and archived for later viewing.

Here is the full schedule of upcoming webinars:

■ March 4th at 10 a.m. – LANDFIRE: A landscape level resource for fire management and habitat assessments in the Pinelands

Inga La Puma. Ph.D., Technical Lead, LANDFIRE, a Contractor to the US Geological Survey's Earth Resources Observation and Science Center

In this presentation, Dr. Inga La Puma will discuss the numerous resources that are available from LANDFIRE, a national level mapping program. These map layers provide detailed vegetation classifications and structure indices for the Pinelands. The LANDFIRE program also maps annual disturbance and assigns fuel models to each 30m pixel on the landscape, which helps to predict fire behavior. La Puma will also provide information about improvements over previous versions of LANDFIRE data for the Pinelands region, while detailing how the data relates to other regional efforts, such as habitat assessments, wildfire risk assessments and prescribed fire management. **Link to livestream.**

■ March 11th at 10 a.m. - A Tale of Two Pine Barrens

Polly Weigand, Science & Stewardship Manager and Melissa Parrott, Education & Outreach Coordinator - Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission

(MORE)

Pinelands webinar announcement

Page 2 ...

Presenters Polly Weigand and Melissa Parrott will discuss the Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission and how the Long Island Pine Barrens Protection Act was adopted, while focusing on the region's vast and significant natural, agricultural, historical, cultural, and recreational resources and how they compare with the New Jersey Pinelands.

■ March 18th at 10 a.m. - Live and Let Live: Ecology and Evolutionary Physiology of Eastern Fence Lizards in Association with Chigger Mites

Henry John-Alder, Ph.D., Professor, Dept. of Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources; Rutgers University and the Director of Rutgers University's Pinelands Field Station.

Presenter Dr. Henry John-Alder has studied the eastern fence lizards in the Pinelands for many years, and he will highlight their natural history, focusing on sex differences in home range, growth, and ectoparasitism by chigger mites.

■ March 25th at 10 a.m. - Today's Ecological Forestry

William Zipse, Supervising Forester, New Jersey Forest Service, Bernard Isaacson, Assistant Regional Forester, Courtney Compton, Assistant Regional Forester

This presentation will provide a look back at the forest management practices and historical approaches used in the Pinelands and a look forward to the new tools, models and technologies that may be used in the future. The foresters responsible for managing your public forestland will show how these tools of forestry can be used with more flexibility and adaptability to address the challenges of the future.

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